

REMARKS

Amendments

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 9 and 19-23 are allowed and that claim 17 recites allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features recited in prior claims 8 and 17. Claims 8, 12-14, 17, and 18 are cancelled. New claims 25-36 correspond to prior claims 2, 10, 3, 4, 11, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 15 and 16, respectively, except that they depend from allowed claim 9.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Objection to Claim 14

The objection is rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 14.

Rejection under 35 USC §103

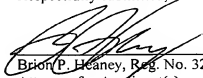
Claims 1-8, 10-16, and 18 are rejected as allegedly being obvious in view of Masai et al. and McKenna. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the recitations of claims 8 and 17, the latter having been indicated by the Examiner as reciting allowable subject matter. Claims 2-7, 10, 11, 15, and 16 depend from amended claim 1. Claims 8 and 12-14 and 18 have been cancelled. The rejection under 35 USC § 103 is rendered moot these amendments.

These amendments are submitted for purposes of furthering prosecution and to obtain earlier allowance of the application. The submission of these amendments is not to be construed as acquiescence to any ground of rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC § 103 and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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